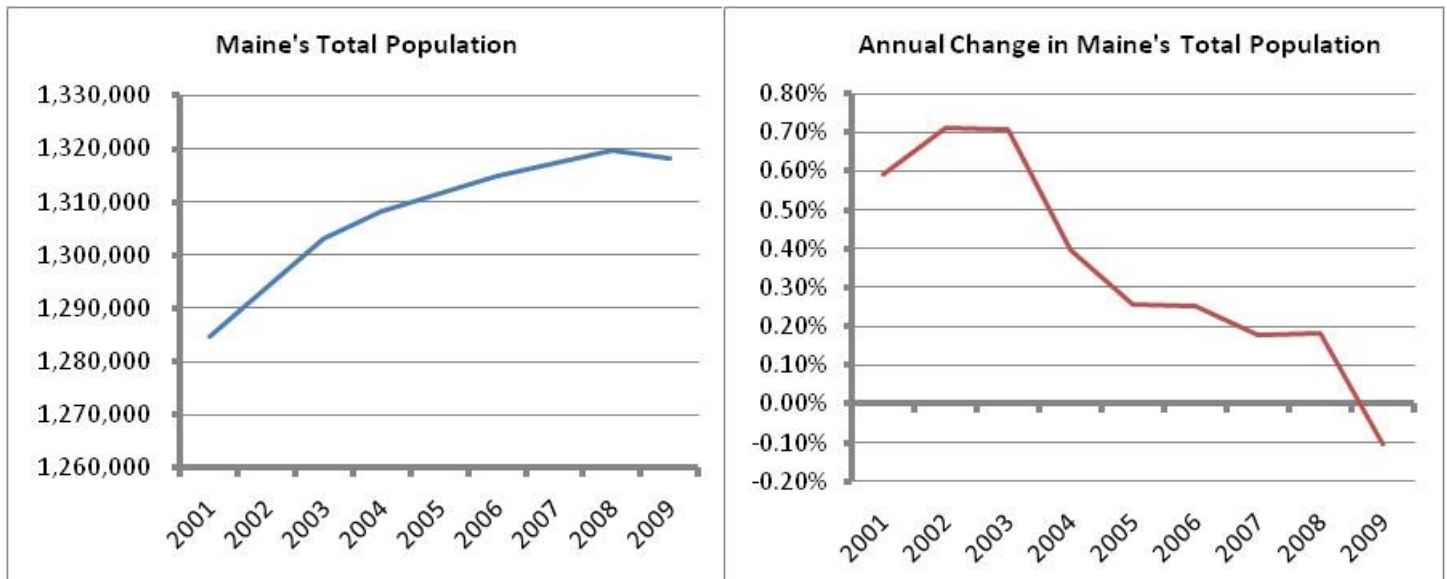
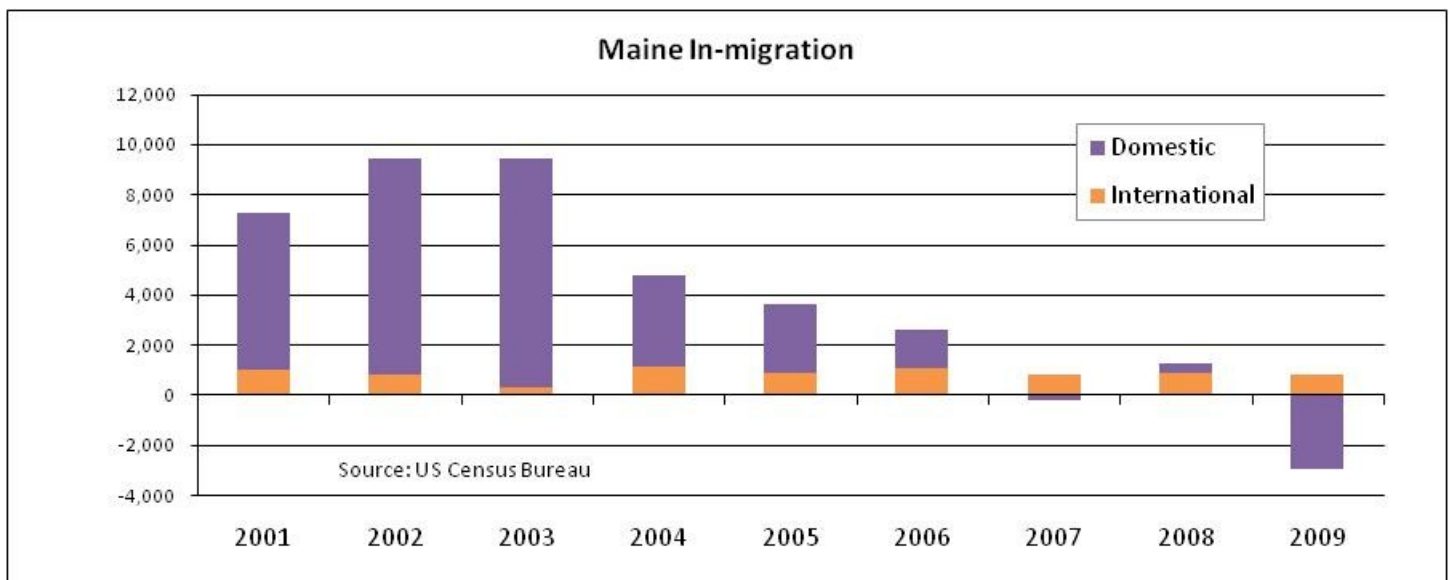


## 2009 Population Estimates Show Population Loss Driven by Domestic Out-migration

Maine's population of about 1.3 million just did something rare these days: it declined. According to estimates by the US Census Bureau Maine lost about one tenth of one percent of its population between 2008 and 2009.



Population growth comes from two places: natural increase (births and deaths) and migration. Maine's population has only small natural increases because it is the oldest in the country and has the lowest percentage of non-white residents, who typically have higher birth rates. Earlier in the decade, Maine's population growth was bolstered by net in-migration: more people moving into Maine than out of Maine. That changed from 2008 to 2009, as Maine saw net out-migration: more people moving out of the state than in. The overall out-migration was driven by an increase in domestic out-migration. The flow of international migration, although small, has been fairly constant over the last 9 years.



Maine and the US as a whole were in recession throughout 2008 and 2009, and recessions can affect people's decisions about moving, so more years of data would be needed to call it a trend. Regardless, population growth is an important component of long-term economic growth because businesses need a dependable supply of labor to provide goods and services. Promoting Maine's Quality of Place and other strategies to boost in-migration over the long run are thus crucial for Maine's economic future.